

Daily Eagle

WORKINGMEN OF PHILADELPHIA.

A City Where Laborers Own Their Homes.

Moral and Social Instruction.

Philadelphia, as the greatest workshop of America, furnishes a striking illustration in point. Its comparative exemption from strikes is due to the fact that, as a rule, the workingman there owns his home. Hence he is as conservative as the capitalist. You may find scores of squares with nice brick houses of workingmen, not one of which is a tenement house. Philadelphia now has double the number of dwelling houses of any other city of its size in the world.

This marvelous increase in its homesteads is due to its co-operative building associations—numbering over 400. They have been tried for nearly fifty years, and have proved such valuable forces in promoting industry, economy, sobriety, thrift and prosperity that the state encourages them by exempting all their stock and mortgages from taxation. Though the holdings of these associations exceed \$50,000,000, they are managed by workingmen at little expense, and are always open to public scrutiny. Failures have been very rare, less than in any other class of financial associations. The worst of those closed during the panic of 1873 paid ninety-three cents on the dollar. These associations, so unique, tried so long and so successfully, are a model for the workingmen of the country, certainly in large manufacturing centers.

That I may speak authoritatively, I will epitomize certain statements kindly furnished by an eminent Philadelphian, especially conversant with this subject, who says: "The tenement house is unknown here. In the riots of 1877 the 25,000 members of building associations acted as an efficient counterpoise to the lawless throngs that crowded the streets. This instinct of self-preservation, of social order, was as strong with them as with the wealthier classes, and was even more effective. It neutralized, in their own camp, the clamors of a vicious and riotous rabble, so that the presence of the mayor and the police was sufficient to quell all disorder without collision. These associations have been a potent factor in making our people prosperous and moral, encouraging industry and preventing dissipation. The absence of any socialistic tendencies can undoubtedly be traced to the general ownership of homes."—Age of Steel.

Mrs. Barrios' Methods of Life.

Mrs. Barrios—I suppose it to be more proper to style her "Senora"—Barrios attracted my attention on the drive to-day. She had her troupe of children with her, tributes to her marriage with Senor Barrios, erstwhile fugitive president of the Colombian confederation. This lady has an interesting history. Her husband is said to have left her \$2,000,000, which is very probably within the mark, and she is enjoying it in truly royal style. She has several of the most elegantly appointed apartments at the West End hotel, with music and attendants galore at her bidding.

Have often thought, when musing on her methods of life, what a difference there is between republicanism among the Latin races and with the Anglo-Saxons. There anything approaching power is autocratic and aristocratic; here ingratitude and neglect are often the rewards of merit and service. Senora Barrios is the widow of a smart ex-president of an insignificant and poverty-stricken Central American travesty on a nation, and she may revel to her heart's content in all that wealth affords or an aspiration for swiftness desires. But Mrs. Grant, widow of the greatest general of the age and of an ex-president of the greatest republic and one of the richest nations on earth, is compelled to retirement and obscurity, and in her modest life is almost forgotten by the people of the United States her noble husband did so much as a soldier and statesman to save and advance. Mrs. Garfield, too, is hidden from the public gaze in short, lack of veneration is the admirable distinction of the truly estimable among our people. Among the petty republics of Central and South America the enrichment of the officeholders and the impoverishment of the people is the rule.—Cor. Philadelphia Times.

The Pied Piper of Atlanta.

Atlanta has a vermin exterminator, but, unlike the piper of Hamelin, he uses no magic. The Atlanta rat catcher trusts nothing short of "cold poison," but his rats are very much like the rodents of Hamelin—they make for the water. When the Atlanta rat catcher starts in he sees that no water about the place is accessible to rats. He then puts out poison, and when the rats get hold of it they start for water and die by the wholesale wherever the first water is found. The Atlanta vermin exterminator also kills moths, roaches, bedbugs and the like. Once he was called on to clear a large warehouse of vermin of vast quantities of flies. Millions of flies had collected in the beer hogheads and the vermin exterminator was asked how much he would charge to clean out the lot. His figure was \$400, but he offered to tell the brewery man how they could do the job for \$250. The offer was accepted.

"Roll these barrels into the ice room," he said.

The barrels were rolled into the room where ice was made.

"Freeze 'em!" said the vermin exterminator. The brewery men were surprised that they had not thought of that simple remedy.

They tried it and in a short time swept out a countless number of frozen flies.—Atlanta Constitution.

Old Time Sea Bathing.

In ante-railroad days the young folk of the mainland, as now, came over to the ocean for some fun and a bath. According to the account of an old inhabitant they were the days of primitive simplicity.

They first came in boats, and as they rounded Run point in the inlet they would hoist a flag for Aunt Judith Ryan to begin the preparation for dinner.

Later they came by wagon. On the beach at low tide they would dance the hornpipe to the music of a fiddle. It was romping such as one would see at a down-east corn husking. At high tide they bathed. There were no four miles of bathing houses then nor added bathing robes. They went into the bushes and changed their apparel. The chief sport of the beach frolic was when the young men would tie the girls' feet together and roll them down the sand hills into the surf. The first bath house was constructed of brush and was of a rude character. In this for several years the young folk for miles around the country put on their old clothes for the first time in the ocean.—Atlantic City Cor. Philadelphia News.

Novel Method of Detection.

Joseph Nathanson, the emigrant agent and interpreter of the Pennsylvania railroad, recently found on a west bound emigrant train a young girl who had been robbed of her money by a fellow passenger. Telling her he would find her money, Nathanson borrowed a carrier pigeon, closed the car windows so that the bird could not escape and addressed the passengers, telling them that the bird would alight on the head of the one who had committed the theft. He released the bird just as the train entered the Spruce creek tunnel, and on striking a match found a suspected woman crouching between two seats and waving her hands above her head to keep the bird away. She gave up the money.—Philadelphia Times.

A President of Columbia, N. C., has gone into the cultivation of the sunflower on a large scale. He has several acres planted with different varieties of the flower, and expects within a short time to be able to supply the southern markets with the product. He says they make splendid feed for stock, and horses and cattle are very fond of them.—Chicago Times.

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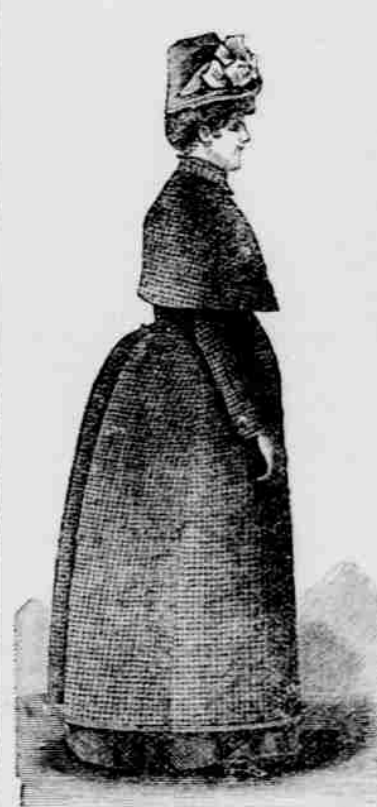
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